

From: Dick
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/17/02 3:39pm
Subject: Settlement with Microsoft

I am opposed to the proposed settlement with Microsoft.

Microsoft has been held to be a monopolist but is continuing to exploit its monopoly. Not only does it overcharge for its software, Microsoft continues to act in ways that only a monopoly can get away with. Its newest software products (Office XP, XP At Home) are keyed to fail (stop working) if the user changes her hardware configuration. So if I replace a failed hard drive or decide that I need a new modem then I must call Microsoft to plead for a new key code to get my system to keep working. And if there are any (inevitable) snafus or Microsoft does not believe me or agree with me? Why then I might have lost all access to important financial records, be unable to continue electronic commerce and go bankrupt. Rational business people would not incur such risk if there were viable alternatives but Microsoft has used its monopoly position to systematically stamp out alternatives. A competitor could not use such extortionate methods. Subaru (Fuji Heavy Industries) might disallow warranty claims if I change the configuration of my car but they have no legal basis to disable its operation and attempting to do so would guarantee their quick exit from business. Microsoft would like to be able to remotely intrude into customers computers to sabotage working software. That is one of the goals of the UCITA state legislation they back.

This is only one example of Microsoft's arrogance and abuse of monopoly power. It is vital to the future of this nation that Microsoft be stopped. They must be stopped from crushing innovation and alternatives as they are bent upon doing. The proposed settlement does not come close to doing that and will see continuation of abuses.

Thank you for your attention.

Regards

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